

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Status of the Claims and Explanation of Amendments

The drawings were objected to as allegedly not showing “a lower face” and “an upper face” as recited in certain of the claims. [3/24/06 Office Action at p. 2]. By this paper, this claim language has been removed from claims 1 and 20, and therefore this objection is believed to be moot. These amendments to the claims are not made for any substantial reasons related to patentability (§§ 102, 103) and are not believed to narrow the claims in any way.

Claims 1-31 were pending. Each of these claims was rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2 as allegedly being indefinite. [3/24/06 Office Action at p. 3]. Specifically, the office action requested that the inter-relationships between the various recited elements be specified. By this paper, claim 1 has been amended. Principally, the claim language has been reorganized. In any case, the inter-relationship of the various claim elements is believed to be appropriately recited. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

A non-statutory double patenting rejected was also lodged against claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 14, 17, 18, 20 and 24-31 over certain claims of co-pending U.S. patent application ser. No. 10/635,358 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,975,715 to Bauder. [3/24/06 Office Action at pp. 4-6]. Without commenting on the substance of that allegation,

Applicant notes that it is premature to address this rejection until patentable subject matter in both pending applications has been agreed upon. Accordingly, Applicant requests that this rejection be held in abeyance until such a time.

As to the merits, claims 1-13, 15-22, 24 and 26-31 have been rejected and claims 14, 23 and 25 were found to be allowable. These latter three claims have been amended into dependent form, and should be allowed. Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 17-18, 20-22, 24, 29 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,550,935 to Ueno et al. ("Ueno"). [3/24/06 Office Action at pp. 6-9]. Claims 5-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ueno. [3/24/06 Office Action at pp. 9-10]. Claims 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ueno in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,293,179 to Vonder ("Vonder"). [3/24/06 Office Action at pp. 10-11]. Claims 11-13, 15-16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ueno in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,138,711 to Bremenour et al. ("Bremenour"). [3/24/06 Office Action at p. 12]. Finally, claims 26-28 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ueno in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,678,916 to Watanabe et al. ("Watanabe"). [3/24/06 Office Action at pp. 13-14].

Further amendments are made to various claims, and two new claims are added. Claim 1 is amended to further recite "wherein the complementary module is outside of the housing."

Amendments were made to several claims to address non-idiomatic spellings and redundancy. In claim 10, the word “centring” was changed to “centering.” In claims 11, 12, 24 and 26, the phrase “the said” was changed to “said.” These amendments to the claims are not made for any substantial reasons related to patentability (§§102, 103) and are not believed to narrow the claims in any way.

New independent claims 32 and 33 also are presented. New claim 32 recites:

32. A lighting or indicating apparatus for a motor vehicle, comprising:
a light source disposed within a housing, the housing defining an aperture,
at least one connector base disposed in the aperture,
a complementary module comprising an electronic printed circuit board and a plurality of electrical contact zones on a surface portion of the electronic circuit board,
wherein said connector base comprises a plurality of protuberating electrical contact elements for directly contacting the electrical contact zones of the complementary module.

New claim 33 recites:

33. A light emitting apparatus comprising:
a light source disposed within a housing;
a complementary module adapted to supply power to the light source; and
a sole traversing connector adapted to interface the light source with the complementary module, the traversing connector extending from an interior of the housing to an exterior of the housing.

Support for claims 32 and 33 is found throughout the application as originally filed, including for example Figure 3 and its associated text. No new matter will be added to this application by entry of these amendments. Entry is requested.

B. Claims 1-13, 15-22, 24 and 26-31 are Patentably Distinct
from the Cited References

The rejections of claims 1-13, 15-22, 24 and 26-31 are respectfully traversed. As explained more fully below, the requirements for such rejections are not met.

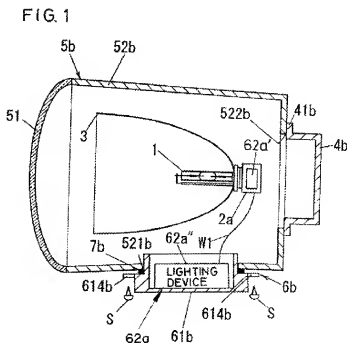
Applicant's claim 1 recites:

1. Lighting or indicating apparatus for a motor vehicle, comprising:
a lighting element comprising a light source adapted to emit light, at least one reflector disposed and adapted to receive light from the light source and to reflect light into a beam, and a housing at least partially enclosing the light source and reflector which has a plurality of side faces,
a complementary module adapted to supply electricity to the light source and having an electronic printed circuit board and a plurality of electrical contact zones on a surface portion of the electronic circuit board,
wherein the lighting element further comprises at least one connector base adapted to interface with the complementary module and disposed in an aperture formed in the lighting element, said connector base comprising a plurality of terminals adapted to come into direct contact with the electrical contact zones of the complementary module, and wherein the complementary module is outside of the housing.

Ueno is directed to an illumination device having an inverter and an ignited disposed in the lamp body. As shown in Figures 1-3, Ueno's device has a metal lamp body (52b) having a lens (51) disposed in an opening. Within the lamp body (52b) are

discharge lamp 1, a cylindrical lamp socket 2a with connecting terminals and an igniter (62a').

According to the office action, the igniter (62a') corresponds to the complementary module recited in Applicant's claim 1 and the lamp body (52b) corresponds to the housing recited in Applicant's claim 1. As shown in Ueno's Figure 1, the igniter (62a') is entirely inside of the lamp body (52b):



Nowhere in the entirety of Ueno's disclosure is there any discussion that the igniter (62a') may be provided outside of the lamp body (52b). To the contrary, Ueno extols the benefits of providing the igniter (62a) inside of the lamp body (52b). For example, Ueno describes the assembly of the igniter (62a') as benefiting the sealing of the lamp body, as follows:

“The lamp socket 2a provided with the igniter 62a' is mounted to the electrode part of the discharge lamp 1, and then the lamp cover 4b is fitted as rotated to the lamp body 522b, whereby the interior of the lamp fixture 5b is in a sealed state.” [Ueno, Col. 3, lines 44-48]

Ueno also says that providing both the igniter (62a') and the inverter (62a'') within the lamp body improves safety. [Ueno, Col. 4, lines 1-4].

Thus, Ueno fails to teach, disclose or suggest “wherein the complementary module is outside of the housing” as recited in Applicants’ claim 1.

Vonder, Bremenour and Watanabe were cited in the office action for their alleged disclosure of features recited in various dependent claims (claims 8, 10-13, 15-16, 19, 26-28 and 30). Without commenting of those assertions, Applicant notes that the office action did not assert that any of these references teaches, discloses or suggests “wherein the complementary module is outside of the housing” as recited in Applicants’ claim 1. Applicant’s own review of these references finds no such disclosure.

Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinct over Ueno alone, or in combination with any one of Vonder, Bremenour or Watanabe. Dependent claims 2-13, 15-22, 24 and 26-31 are believed to be patentable for at least similar reasons. New independent claim 32 (“wherein said connector base comprises a plurality of protuberating electrical contact elements for directly contacting the electrical contact zones of the complementary module”) and new independent claim 33 (“a sole traversing connector adapted to interface the light source with the complementary module, the traversing connecting extending from an interior of the housing to an exterior of the

housing”) also are believed to be patentable for at least similar reasons. Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. These statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art. Likewise, Applicant has chosen not to swear behind Ueno, cited by the office action, at this time. Applicant, however, reserves the right, as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, to do so in the future as appropriate.

Finally, Applicant has not specifically addressed the rejections of the dependent claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims, from which they depend, are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Accordingly, the dependent claims also are in condition for allowance. Applicant, however, reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims in the future as appropriate.

C. Other Matters

In connection with pending claim 19, the examiner took official notice. This claim recites, *inter alia*, “wherein the complementary module and the lighting element are secured to each other by means of a spring for exerting pressure on a rear portion of the complementary module, whereby to maintain the electronic circuit board rooted in the aperture of the connector base.” To the extent that the office action has taken official notice of this element, Applicant requests that a reference be provided with such disclosure.

CONCLUSION

For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1948-4837.

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Respectfully submitted,
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